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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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May 6, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – GREENE'S
HOME FOR BOYS - KRAMER DRIVE AND SULTAN CIRCLE GROUP
HOMES**

We have completed a review of Kramer Drive and Sultan Circle Group Homes, operated by Greene's Home for Boys, Inc. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Kramer Drive, and Sultan Circle Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 8-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Kramer Drive Group Home was providing services for five Los Angeles County DCFS children, and Sultan Circle Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County DCFS children. Greene's Home for Boys Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, each Group Home needs to address several deficient areas. Both Group Homes need to include the treatment team in developing the Needs and Services Plans, and include long and short-term goals. The Agency needs to maintain current court authorizations for all children prescribed psychotropic medication and ensure they are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. The Agency needs to encourage and assist children in maintaining photo albums/life books.

Kramer Drive Group Home needs to allow children to spend their monthly allowances as they choose.

Sultan Circle Group Home needs to landscape the front yard, clean the door and window jams, replace stained bed pillows, and increase the amount of reading materials available to children. The Group Home also needs to provide children with additional academic assistance, and provide them with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children Services Group Home Ombudsman within 20 business days from the date of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Barbara Green, Executive Director, Green's Home for Boys
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Greene's Home for Boys
Kramer Drive
1319 Kramer Drive
Carson, California 90746
Phone: (310) 605-0577
License: 191600971
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Kramer Drive Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children were assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

However, the treatment team does not develop the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive and do not include long and short-term goals. Consequently, needed services are not identified in the NSPs.

Recommendations**1. Greene's Home for Boys management:**

- a. Include the treatment team in the development of Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Develop Needs and Services Plans that include long and short-term goals.
- c. Identify and provide needed services to children, and document in the NSPs.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given the opportunity to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of documents for relevant case files

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

One of the court authorizations for psychotropic medication was expired. Documentation indicated that the prescribing psychiatrist was not routinely seeing children on psychotropic medication, due to scheduling conflicts.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication, and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

2. Greene's Home for Boys management:

- a. Maintain current court authorization for all children prescribed psychotropic medication.**

- b. Ensure all children receiving psychotropic medication are seen by the psychiatrist.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children are given the opportunity to receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the children. The Group Home supplies children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and children are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. However, the children are not permitted to spend their monthly allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not sufficiently encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

3. Greene's Home for Boys management:

- a. Allow children to spend their monthly allowances as they choose.**
- b. Provide children with encouragement and assistance necessary to maintain a photo album/life book.**

**Greene's Home for Boys
Sultan Circle
1238 East Sultan Circle
Carson, California 90746
Phone: (310) 605-0577
License: 191600271
Rate Classification Level: 8**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Greene's Home for Boys, Sultan Circle Group Home is located in a residential community. Overall, the exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The back yard is clean and adequately landscaped. The front yard lacked sufficient landscaping.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. However, the window jams and door jams are dirty, and require thorough cleaning. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable; however, the pillows are stained and need to be replaced. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR/DVD player. Resource materials including a computer with a variety of programs, is also available. However, there is an insufficient amount of reading materials available to children.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

Recommendations

1. Greene's Home for Boys management:

- a. Provide landscaping in the front yard.**
- b. Clean all door and window jams.**

- c. Replace the stained bed pillows.
- d. Increase the amount of reading materials available to children.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children were assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

However, the treatment team does not develop the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are current; however, they are not comprehensive and do not include long and short-term goals. Consequently, needed services are not identified in the NSPs.

Recommendations

2. Greene's Home for Boys management:

- a. Include the treatment team in the development of Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Develop Needs and Services Plans that include long and short-term goals.
- c. Identify and provide needed services to children, and document in the NSPs.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources. However, one child is not progressing satisfactorily in school, and is in need of additional academic assistance. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are not provided with sufficient opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.

Recommendations

3. Greene's Home for Boys management:

- e. Provide children with additional academic assistance as needed.**
- f. Provide children with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs.**

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given the opportunity to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of documents for relevant case files

Comments:

One of the court authorizations for psychotropic medication was expired. Documentation confirms that the prescribing psychiatrist routinely sees children.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendation

4. Greene's Home for Boys management ensure that every child who is prescribed psychotropic medication has a current court authorization.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children expressed satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children are given the opportunity to receive or reject voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the children. The Group Home supplies children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and children are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not sufficiently encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

- 5. Greene's Home for Boys management provide children with encouragement and assistance necessary to maintain a photo album/life book.**